

# HOME MAGAZINE

DOUBLE PAGE.

## THE FAIR CUBAN'S STORY.

BY ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON.

## SYNOPSIS OF PRECEDING CHAPTERS.

Teresa Valdes, a Cuban girl, learns that her mother was a slave and that she herself is only her father's daughter. She is to be sold. She and her father plan to escape, taking with them a bag of jewels. Her father secures the jewels. A swamp, large swamps and the sea.

## CHAPTER III.

## The Hurricane.

THERE was a great rumour of joy through all the circle of the worshippers; it rose and fell and rose again, and swelled at last into rapture. When the tall negro, who had stepped an instant into the chapel, reappeared before the door, carrying in his arms the body of the slave girl, Cora, it was not if I saw what followed. When next my mind awoke to a clear knowledge, Cora was laid upon the steps before the altar; the negro with the knife stood over her; the knife rose, and at this I screamed out in my great horror, bidding them, in God's name, to pause.

A stillness fell upon the mob of cannibals. A moment more, and they must have thrown off the mask, and I infinitely have perished. But heaven had destined to save me. The silence of these wretched men was not yet broken when there arose, in the empty night, a sound louder than the roar of any European tempest, swifter to travel than the wings of an Eastern wind. Blackness engulfed the world; blackness, stabbed across from every side by intricate and blinding lightning. Almost in the same second, at one world-swallowing stride, the heart of the tornado reached the clearing. I heard an agonizing crash, and the light of my reason was overwhelmed.

When I recovered consciousness the day was come. I was unharmed; the trees about me had not lost a bough; and I might have thought at first that the tornado was a fantasy of a dream. It was otherwise indeed; for when I looked about I perceived I had escaped destruction by a hair's breadth. Right through the forest, which here covered hill and dale, the storm had ploughed a lane of ruin. On either hand the trees waved unharmed in the air of the morning; but, in the forthright course of its advance, the hurricane had left no trophy standing. Everything in that line, tree, man or animal, the desecrated

chapel and the votaries of Hoochoo, had been subverted and destroyed in that brief spasm of anger of the powers of air. Everything but a yard or two beyond the line of its passage, humble flower, lofty tree and the poor vulnerable maid who now knelt to pay her gratitude to heaven, awoke unharmed in the crystal purity and peace of the new day.

It was hard upon the hour of noon when I came, all tattered and wayworn, to the summit of a deep descent, and looked below me on the sea. About the coast, the surf, roused by the tornado of the night, beat with a particular fury and made a fringe of snow. Close at my feet I saw a haven, set in precipitous and palm-crowned bluffs of rock. Just outside a ship was heaving on the surge, so truly appeared so gloriously painted, so elegant and pointed device in every feature, that my heart was seized with admiration. The English colors flew from her mast-head, and from my high station I caught glimpses of her snowy planking as she rolled on the uneven deep, and saw the sun glitter on the brass of her deck furniture.

There, then, was my ship of refuge; and of all my difficulties only one remained—to get on board of her. Half an hour later I issued at last out of the woods on the margin of the cove, into whose jaws the tossing and blue billows entered, and along whose shores they broke with a surprising loudness. A wooded promontory hid the beach, and I had walked some distance round the beach, in what appeared to be a virgin solitude, when my eye fell on a boat, drawn into a natural harbor, where it rocked in safety, but deserted. I looked about for those who should have manned her; and presently, in the immediate entrance of the wood, spied the red embers of a fire, and stretched around in various attitudes, a party of slumbering mariners. To these I drew near, most were black, a few white, but all were dressed with the conspicuous decency of yachtsmen; and one, from his peaked cap and glittering buttons, I rightly divined to be an officer. Him, then, I touched upon the shoulder. He started up, the sharpness of his movement woke the rest; and they all stared upon me in surprise.

"What do you want?" inquired the officer. "To go on board the yacht," I answered. "I thought they all seemed disconcerted at this; and the officer, with something of sharpness, asked me who I was. Now, I had determined to conceal my name until I met Sir George, and the first name that rose to my lips was that of Senora Mendisabai. At



"WHAT DO YOU WANT?" INQUIRED THE OFFICER.

the word there went a shock about the little party of seamen; the negroes stared at me with indescribable eagerness, the whites themselves with something of a scared surprise, and instantly the spirit of mischief prompted me to add:

"And if the name is new to your ears, call me Metamorphosis." This was the name I had heard her about at the altar.

I had never seen an effect so wonderful. The negroes threw their hands into the air, with the same gesture I remarked the night before about the Hoochoo campfire; first one, and then another, ran forward and knelt down and kissed the skirts of my torn dress, and when the white officer broke out swearing and calling to know if they were mad, the colored seamen took him by the shoulders, dragged him on

Stevenson, in this story from "The Dynamiter," has caught the true tropical atmosphere of Cuba, and leads the reader through a labyrinth of thrilling adventure, tender heart interest and real humor.

on one side till they were out of hearing, and surrounded him with open mouths and extravagant pantomime. The officer seemed to struggle and he laughed aloud, and I saw him make gestures of dissent and protest; but in the end, whether overcome by reason or simply weary of resistance, he gave in, and, in a grudging, civil, enough, but with something of a sneering manner, undertook—and touching his cap—

"My lady, said he, 'if that is what you are the boat is ready.'"

My reception on board the Nemora was so the yacht was named partook of the same mingled nature. We were seated within half of that great and elegant fabric, where she lay rolling gracefully upon the waves, the blue sea was now, indeed, the sea, and the waves were lined with the heads of a great crowd of seamen, black, white and yellow, and the few who manned the boat began exchanging shouts in some of the many languages of the tropics. As the negroes took up their hands to heaven, but now as it with passionate wonder and delight.

At the head of the gangway I was received by an officer, with your advice permitted, I shall immediately make all sail. The cabins are prepared. Steward, take Lady Grandville below."

I trust the jewels, which I was surprised to find had been expected, into the bosom of my dress.

"Madame," said the steward as he reached the cabin, "I know not who you are or what mad."

At this moment he was interrupted by the white-kneed officer, who had entered unperceived behind

him, and now laid a hand upon his shoulder. The sudden pallor, the deadly and sick fear that was imprinted on the steward's face, formed a startling addition to his words.

"Pardon!" said the officer, and pointed toward the boat.

"Yes, Mr. Kentish," said the steward, "for God's sake, Mr. Kentish," and vanished with a white face from the cabin.

The movement of the Nemora gradually became less violent, its speed at the same time diminished, and presently after, with a sudden plunge, the anchor was discharged into the sea. Kentish immediately offered his arm and conducted me on deck, where I found we were lying in a vast area among many low and rocky islets, hovered about by an immense cloud of sea-fowl. Immediately under our bow a somewhat larger isle was green with trees, set with a few low buildings and approached by a pier of very rough workmanship, and a little further off, as a smaller vessel lay at anchor.

I did not wait to glance to the four quarters ere a boat was lowered, in a matter of minutes took place beside me, and we pulled briskly to the pier.

Leading me smartly through the crowd, which continued to follow at a considerable distance, and at which he still kept looking back, I thought, with apprehension, he brought me to a low house that stood alone in an unincumbered yard, opened the door and begged me to enter.

"That is," said I, "I demanded to see Sir George."

"Madame," returned Mr. Kentish, looking suddenly as black as thunder, "to drop all fence, I know neither who nor what you are, beyond the fact that you are not the person whose name you have assumed. But be what you please—spy, ghost, devil or most ill-favored jester—if you do not immediately return that house, will you to the earth!" And even as he spoke he threw an angry glance behind him at the following crowd of blacks.

(To Be Continued.)

## MAKE YOUR OWN DRESS.

MME. LOUISE TELLS HOW.

## FOR STREET AND PARTIES.

Dear Mrs. Louise:  
Will you please advise me how to make a dress of white flannel with blue polka dots? Would like a street dress, but one that could be used as a party dress next winter. I can't spend anything for trimming, so my idea was: A blue bordered skirt and a white with a few dots, and vest of white, with perhaps a touch of ribbon. Also please tell me, shall I insert the skirt to fit or not? I want to make a dress that is your advice as to the most serviceable, pretty white material for a wash dress? Does not a nice quality of lawn make up nicely if tucked and trimmed a bit with lace?

Mrs. W. WILLIAMS.

## TO MAKE DRESSES OVER.

Dear Mrs. Louise:  
How can I have made over a dark blue and white skirt? The skirt is plain, having a blue ribbon on the waist. It is a little too short. The waist is too narrow across back and tight over bosom. How do you think a plain blue bordered skirt would look on skirt and blue used some way for the waist? I am tall and slender, with light hair. I want to use it made rather pretty, to wear at a home wedding next winter. P. J. A.

## FOR HOME DRESSMAKERS.

The Evening World's Daily Fashion Hint.

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The pattern (No. 3,663, sizes 12 to 40 bust) will be sent for 10 cents.

Send money to "Cashier, The World, Pulitzer Building, New York City."

Other. Make the waist with a vest of white China silk which has been accented plaited and shirred in tiny tucks one inch apart; from the collar line down six inches. Have the side fronts finished with clusters of half-inch tucks and have clusters of sunburst tucks at the shoulder seam and at the bottom of the waist. Make the sleeve tucked in three half-inch tucks from shoulder to elbow and laid in plaits at the elbow inner seam to allow a pretty puff. The lower sleeve is tucked in tiny tucks all over. Wear a black ribbon sash. India lawn would make a pretty and serviceable summer dress.

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## FOR A YOUNG GIRL.

Dear Mrs. Louise:  
A simple and pretty way to make your gown is with two flounces on the skirt, tucked in clusters of sunburst tucks. Finish the edges of the flounces with three half-inch tucks overlapping each other.

Mrs. DONLIN.

A dainty chaille would make a pretty party frock, also suitable for street, made to wear with a gump. You could have a white India silk gump and a circular collar of lace, or a gump of fine white tucked batiste and the circular collar of embroidered batiste. If you desire something in a very thin fabric, why not use white point d'esprit or batiste? You will find a chaille very serviceable, as it is a little more splendidly something with a pale blue ground would be pretty. Use a dash of black velvet ribbon on it. The length depends on the young girl's height. Generally speaking, a girl of fifteen should wear her skirts to her shoe tops.

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